

FACT SHEET FOR STATE WASTE DISCHARGE PERMIT ST-7440

FACILITY NAME: Q SEA SPECIALITY SERVICES L.L.C.

GENERAL INFORMATION	
Applicant	Joel Harvey, Vice President of Operations
Facility Name and Address	Q Sea Specialty Services L.L.C. 2875 Roeder Avenue Bellingham, WA 98225 Whatcom County
Mailing Address	6069 Hannegan Road Bellingham, WA 98226
Type of Facility	Seafood Processing
Facility Discharge Location	Latitude: 48° 31' 11" N. Longitude: 122° 31' 22" W.
Treatment Plant Receiving Discharge	City of Bellingham, Post Point Water Treatment Facility WA-002374-4
Responsible Official	Mr. Joel Harvey, Vice President Operations 6069 Hannegan Road Bellingham, WA 98226 Telephone #: 360-398-9708 ext. 11 FAX #: 360-398-9609

FACILITY NAME: *Q Sea Speciality Services L.L.C.***TABLE OF CONTENTS**

INTRODUCTION	3
BACKGROUND INFORMATION	4
DESCRIPTION OF THE FACILITY	4
Industrial Processes.....	4
Treatment Processes.....	4
PERMIT STATUS.....	4
SUMMARY OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE PREVIOUS PERMIT	4
WASTEWATER CHARACTERIZATION	5
PROPOSED PERMIT LIMITATIONS.....	5
TECHNOLOGY-BASED EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS	5
EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS BASED ON LOCAL LIMITS	5
MONITORING REQUIREMENTS	6
OTHER PERMIT CONDITIONS	6
REPORTING AND RECORDKEEPING	6
OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE.....	6
PROHIBITED DISCHARGES.....	6
DILUTION PROHIBITED	6
SOLID WASTE PLAN	6
NONROUTINE AND UNANTICIPATED DISCHARGES.....	6
GENERAL CONDITIONS	7
PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF NONCOMPLIANCE	7
RECOMMENDATION FOR PERMIT ISSUANCE	7
REFERENCES FOR TEXT AND APPENDICES.....	8
APPENDICES	9
APPENDIX A—PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT INFORMATION	9
APPENDIX B—GLOSSARY.....	10
APPENDIX C—RESPONSE TO COMMENTS.....	14

INTRODUCTION

This fact sheet is a companion document to the draft State Waste Discharge Permit No. ST-7440. The Department of Ecology (the Department) is proposing to issue this permit, which will allow discharge of waste water to the city of Bellingham's Post Point Pollution Control Facility. This fact sheet explains the nature of the proposed discharge, the Department's decisions on limiting the pollutants in the waste water, and the regulatory and technical bases for those decisions.

Washington State law (RCW 90.48.080 and 90.48.160) requires that a permit be issued before discharge of waste water to waters of the state is allowed. This statute includes commercial or industrial discharges to sewerage systems operated by municipalities or public entities which discharge into public waters of the state. Regulations adopted by the state include procedures for issuing permits and establish requirements which are to be included in the permit (Chapter 173-216 WAC).

This fact sheet and draft permit are available for review by interested persons as described in Appendix A—Public Involvement Information.

The fact sheet and draft permit have been reviewed by the Permittee. Errors and omissions identified in these reviews have been corrected before going to public notice. After the public comment period has closed, the Department will summarize the substantive comments and the response to each comment. The summary and response to comments will become part of the file on the permit and parties submitting comments will receive a copy of the Department's response. Changes to the permit will be addressed in Appendix C—Response to Comments.

FACILITY NAME: *Q Sea Speciality Services L.L.C.*

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

DESCRIPTION OF THE FACILITY

Q Sea Speciality Services L.L.C. (QSS) is located in the former Trident-Bellingham steaking room and adjacent processing space, in the Bellingham Cold Storage Complex on the Squalicum Fill. QSS has been permitted under the names Capilano Pacific, Inc. and Q Sea LLC at various locations, including the city of Lynden, Hannegan Road, and on the Squalicum Fill, under state waste discharge permit numbers ST-7393 and ST-7415.

There are no categorical pretreatment limitations listed in 40 CFR Part 408.184 (Subpart R) for this industry.

INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES

Operations are very seasonal with processing occurring only 4-5 months out of the year. QSS primarily processes salmon, roe from salmon, and sardines. Salmon is headed and gutted or filleted September through December.

Sardines are processed during the summer with the waste water comprising mostly washdown water. Sardines are packed whole for bait.

Chemical storage includes small quantities of sanitizers and cleaners.

Waste water is generated primarily from heading and gutting or filleting salmon, and from wash water.

TREATMENT PROCESSES

Wastewater treatment consists of collection in slotted floor drains followed by passage over a 20 mesh hydrosieve prior to entering the Bellingham system.

Solid waste in the form of heads, guts, frames, and scrap are collected and trucked to Canada for rendering.

PERMIT STATUS

An application for a permit was submitted to the Department on June 5, 2002, and accepted by the Department on February 21, 2003.

SUMMARY OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE PREVIOUS PERMIT

The facility last received an inspection on August 14, 1999, under the name Q Sea LLC.

During the history of the previous permit, the Permittee has remained in compliance based on discharge monitoring reports (DMRs) and other reports submitted to the Department and inspections conducted by the Department.

FACILITY NAME: *Q Sea Speciality Services L.L.C.*

WASTEWATER CHARACTERIZATION

The concentration of pollutants in the discharge was taken from previous discharge monitoring reports. The wastewater discharge is characterized for the following parameters:

Parameter	Concentration Range
Flow	11,700 - 105,800 gpd
Five-day Biochemical Oxygen Demand	462 - 810 mg/L
Chlorides	369 - 153,701 mg/L
pH	6.30 - 7.39 standard pH units

Maximum flow usage was listed in the permit application as 45,000 gallons per day. Flow is metered by the city of Bellingham and billed to Bellingham Cold Storage, who then bills their individual clients.

PROPOSED PERMIT LIMITATIONS

State regulations require that limitations set forth in a waste discharge permit must be based on the technology available to treat the pollutants (technology-based) or be based on the effects of the pollutants to the POTW (local limits). Waste water must be treated using all known, available and reasonable treatment (AKART) and not interfere with the operation of the POTW.

The minimum requirements to demonstrate compliance with the AKART standard for fish processors were determined in the EPA contract document, *Reassessment of Effluent Limitations Guidelines and New Source Performance Standards for the Canned and Preserved Seafood Processing Point Source Category* (1979), as coarse screening followed by fine mesh screening (20 mesh or finer).

TECHNOLOGY-BASED EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS

All waste discharge permits issued by the Department must specify conditions requiring available and reasonable methods of prevention, control and treatment of discharges to waters of the state (WAC 173-216-110). There are no pretreatment limitations for new or existing sources seafood processing facilities listed in 40 CFR Part 407.86. The following permit limitations are necessary to satisfy the requirement for AKART:

All process waste water including cleanup water, must be screened through a fine mesh screen prior to discharge to the city of Bellingham WWTP.

The pH must be between 6.0 and 11.0 standard pH units.

EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS BASED ON LOCAL LIMITS

Pollutant concentrations in the proposed discharge with technology-based controls in place is not expected to cause problems at the receiving POTW, such as interference, pass-through, or hazardous exposure to POTW workers nor is it expected to result in unacceptable pollutant levels in the POTW's sludge.

MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

Monitoring, recording, and reporting are specified to verify that the treatment process is functioning correctly, and that effluent limitations are being achieved (WAC 173-216-110). Monitoring shall occur after fine screening and prior to introduction of noncontact cooling water or domestic waste water, and prior to entering the city of Bellingham sanitary sewer system

The monitoring schedule is detailed in the proposed permit under Conditions S2 and S3. Specified monitoring frequencies take into account the quantity and variability of the discharge, the treatment method, past compliance, significance of pollutants, and cost of monitoring.

OTHER PERMIT CONDITIONS

REPORTING AND RECORDKEEPING

The conditions of S3 are based on the authority to specify any appropriate reporting and recordkeeping requirements to prevent and control waste discharges [WAC 173-216-110 and 40 CFR 403.12 (e), (g), and (h)].

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

The proposed permit contains Condition S.5 as authorized under Chapter 173-240-150 WAC and Chapter 173-216-110 WAC. It is included to ensure proper operation and regular maintenance of equipment, and to ensure that adequate safeguards are taken so that constructed facilities are used to their optimum potential in terms of pollutant capture and treatment.

PROHIBITED DISCHARGES

Certain pollutants are prohibited from being discharged to the POTW. These include substances which cause pass-through or interference, pollutants which may cause damage to the POTW or harm to the POTW workers (Chapter 173-216 WAC), and the discharge of designated dangerous wastes not authorized by this permit (Chapter 173-303 WAC).

DILUTION PROHIBITED

The Permittee is prohibited from diluting its effluent as a partial or complete substitute for adequate treatment to achieve compliance with permit limitations.

SOLID WASTE PLAN

This proposed permit requires, under authority of RCW 90.48.080, that the Permittee develop and submit to the Department a solid waste plan to prevent solid waste from causing pollution of waters of the state.

NONROUTINE AND UNANTICIPATED DISCHARGES

Occasionally, this facility may generate waste water which is not characterized in their permit application because it is not a routine discharge and was not anticipated at the time of application. These typically are waters used to pressure test storage tanks or fire water systems

or leaks from drinking water systems. These are typically clean waste waters but may be contaminated with pollutants. The permit contains an authorization for nonroutine and unanticipated discharges. The permit requires a characterization of these waste waters for pollutants and examination of the opportunities for reuse. Depending on the nature and extent of pollutants in this waste water and opportunities for reuse, Ecology may authorize a direct discharge to the municipality, require the waste water to be placed through the facilities wastewater treatment process, or require the water to be reused.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

General Conditions are based directly on state laws and regulations and have been standardized for all industrial waste discharge to POTW permits issued by the Department.

Condition G1 requires responsible officials or their designated representatives to sign submittals to the Department. Condition G2 requires the Permittee to allow the Department to access the treatment system, production facility, and records related to the permit. Condition G3 specifies conditions for modifying, suspending, or terminating the permit. Condition G4 requires the Permittee to apply to the Department prior to increasing or varying the discharge from the levels stated in the permit application. Condition G5 requires the Permittee to construct, modify, and operate the permitted facility in accordance with approved engineering documents. Condition G6 prohibits the Permittee from using the permit as a basis for violating any laws, statutes, or regulations. Conditions G7 and G8 relate to permit renewal and transfer. Condition G9 requires the Permittee to control production or wastewater discharge in order to maintain compliance with the permit. Condition G10 prohibits the reintroduction of removed pollutants into the effluent stream for discharge. Condition G11 requires the payment of permit fees. Condition G12 describes the penalties for violating permit conditions.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF NONCOMPLIANCE

A list of all industrial users which were in significant noncompliance with pretreatment standards or requirements during any of the previous four quarters may be annually published by the Department in a local newspaper. Accordingly, the Permittee is apprised that noncompliance with this permit may result in publication of the noncompliance.

RECOMMENDATION FOR PERMIT ISSUANCE

This proposed permit meets all statutory requirements for authorizing a wastewater discharge, including those limitations and conditions believed necessary to control toxics. The Department proposes that the permit be issued for a term of five (5) years.

REFERENCES FOR TEXT AND APPENDICES

Washington State Department of Ecology.

Laws and Regulations (<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/laws-rules/index.html>)

Permit and Wastewater Related Information
(<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/wastewater/index.html>)

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A—PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT INFORMATION

The Department has tentatively determined to issue a permit to Q Sea Specialty Services L.L.C. The permit contains conditions and effluent limitations which are described in the rest of this fact sheet.

The Department published a Public Notice of Draft (PNOD) on May 13, 2004, in *The Bellingham Herald* to inform the public that a draft permit and fact sheet were available for review. Interested persons were invited to submit written comments regarding the draft permit. The draft permit, fact sheet, and related documents were available for inspection and copying between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. weekdays, by appointment, at the regional office listed below. Written comments were mailed to:

Water Quality Permit Coordinator
Washington State Department of Ecology
Northwest Regional Office
3190 – 160th Avenue SE
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452

Any interested party may comment on the draft permit or request a public hearing on this draft permit within the thirty (30)-day comment period to the address above. The request for a hearing shall indicate the interest of the party and reasons why the hearing is warranted. The Department will hold a hearing if it determines there is a significant public interest in the draft permit (WAC 173-216-100). Public notice regarding any hearing will be circulated at least thirty (30) days in advance of the hearing. People expressing an interest in this permit will be mailed an individual notice of hearing.

Comments should reference specific text followed by proposed modification or concern when possible. Comments may address technical issues, accuracy and completeness of information, the scope of the facility's proposed coverage, adequacy of environmental protection, permit conditions, or any other concern that would result from issuance of this permit.

The Department will consider all comments received within thirty (30) days from the date of public notice of draft indicated above, in formulating a final determination to issue, revise, or deny the permit. The Department's response to all significant comments is available upon request and will be mailed directly to people expressing an interest in this permit.

Further information may be obtained from the Department by telephone, 425-649-7039, or by writing to the address listed above.

This permit was written by Lori LeVander.

APPENDIX B—GLOSSARY

Average Monthly Discharge Limitation—The average of the measured values obtained over a calendar month's time.

Best Management Practices (BMPs)—Schedules of activities, prohibitions of practices, maintenance procedures, and other physical, structural and/or managerial practices to prevent or reduce the pollution of waters of the state. BMPs include treatment systems, operating procedures, and practices to control: plant site runoff, spillage or leaks, sludge or waste disposal, or drainage from raw material storage. BMPs may be further categorized as operational, source control, erosion and sediment control, and treatment BMPs.

BOD₅—Determining the biochemical oxygen demand of an effluent is an indirect way of measuring the quantity of organic material present in an effluent that is utilized by bacteria. The BOD₅ is used in modeling to measure the reduction of dissolved oxygen in a receiving water after effluent is discharged. Stress caused by reduced dissolved oxygen levels makes organisms less competitive and less able to sustain their species in the aquatic environment. Although BOD is not a specific compound, it is defined as a conventional pollutant under the federal Clean Water Act.

Bypass—The intentional diversion of waste streams from any portion of the collection or treatment facility.

Categorical Pretreatment Standards—National pretreatment standards specifying quantities or concentrations of pollutants or pollutant properties which may be discharged to a POTW by existing or new industrial users in specific industrial subcategories.

Compliance Inspection - Without Sampling—A site visit for the purpose of determining the compliance of a facility with the terms and conditions of its permit or with applicable statutes and regulations.

Compliance Inspection - With Sampling—A site visit to accomplish the purpose of a Compliance Inspection - Without Sampling and as a minimum, sampling and analysis for all parameters with limits in the permit to ascertain compliance with those limits; and, for municipal facilities, sampling of influent to ascertain compliance with the 85 percent removal requirement. Additional sampling may be conducted.

Composite Sample—A mixture of grab samples collected at the same sampling point at different times, formed either by continuous sampling or by mixing discrete samples. May be “time-composite” (collected at constant time intervals) or “flow-proportional” (collected either as a constant sample volume at time intervals proportional to stream flow, or collected by increasing the volume of each aliquot as the flow increased while maintaining a constant time interval between the aliquots).

Construction Activity—Clearing, grading, excavation, and any other activity which disturbs the surface of the land. Such activities may include road building; construction of residential houses, office buildings, or industrial buildings; and demolition activity.

Continuous Monitoring—Uninterrupted, unless otherwise noted in the permit.

Engineering Report—A document, signed by a professional licensed engineer, which thoroughly examines the engineering and administrative aspects of a particular domestic or industrial wastewater facility. The report shall contain the appropriate information required in WAC 173-240-060 or 173-240-130.

Grab Sample—A single sample or measurement taken at a specific time or over as short a period of time as is feasible.

Industrial User—A discharger of waste water to the sanitary sewer which is not sanitary waste water or is not equivalent to sanitary waste water in character.

Industrial Wastewater—Water or liquid-carried waste from industrial or commercial processes, as distinct from domestic waste water. These wastes may result from any process or activity of industry, manufacture, trade or business; from the development of any natural resource; or from animal operations such as feed lots, poultry houses, or dairies. The term includes contaminated storm water and, also, leachate from solid waste facilities.

Interference—A discharge which, alone or in conjunction with a discharge or discharges from other sources, both:

Inhibits or disrupts the POTW, its treatment processes or operations, or its sludge processes, use or disposal; and

Therefore is a cause of a violation of any requirement of the POTW's NPDES permit (including an increase in the magnitude or duration of a violation) or of the prevention of sewage sludge use or disposal in compliance with the following statutory provisions and regulations or permits issued thereunder (or more stringent state or local regulations): Section 405 of the Clean Water Act, the Solid Waste Disposal Act (SWDA) [including Title II, more commonly referred to as the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)], and including state regulations contained in any state sludge management plan prepared pursuant to Subtitle D of the SWDA], sludge regulations appearing in 40 CFR Part 507, the Clean Air Act, the Toxic Substances Control Act, and the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act.

Local Limits—Specific prohibitions or limits on pollutants or pollutant parameters developed by a POTW.

Maximum Daily Discharge Limitation—The highest allowable daily discharge of a pollutant measured during a calendar day or any 24-hour period that reasonably represents the calendar day for purposes of sampling. The daily discharge is calculated as the average measurement of the pollutant over the day.

Method Detection Level (MDL)—The minimum concentration of a substance that can be measured and reported with 99% confidence that the analyte concentration is above zero and is determined from analysis of a sample in a given matrix containing the analyte.

Pass-through—A discharge which exits the POTW into waters of the state in quantities or concentrations which, alone or in conjunction with a discharge or discharges from other sources, is a cause of a violation of any requirement of the POTW's NPDES permit (including an increase in the magnitude or duration of a violation), or which is a cause of a violation of state water quality standards.

pH—The pH of a liquid measures its acidity or alkalinity. A pH of 7 is defined as neutral, and large variations above or below this value are considered harmful to most aquatic life.

Potential Significant Industrial User—A potential significant industrial user is defined as an industrial user which does not meet the criteria for a significant industrial user, but which discharges waste water meeting one or more of the following criteria:

1. Exceeds 0.5 % of treatment plant design capacity criteria and discharges <25,000 gallons per day; or
2. Is a member of a group of similar industrial users which, taken together, have the potential to cause pass-through or interference at the POTW (e.g., facilities which develop photographic film or paper, and car washes).

The Department may determine that a discharger initially classified as a potential significant industrial user should be managed as a significant industrial user.

Significant Industrial User (SIU)—

1. All industrial users subject to categorical pretreatment standards under 40 CFR 403.6 and 40 CFR Chapter I, Subchapter N; and
2. Any other industrial user that: discharges an average of 25,000 gallons per day or more of process waste water to the POTW (excluding sanitary, noncontact cooling, and boiler blow-down waste water); contributes a process waste stream that makes up 5 percent or more of the average dry weather hydraulic or organic capacity of the POTW treatment plant; or is designated as such by the Control Authority* on the basis that the industrial user has a reasonable potential for adversely affecting the POTW's operation or for violating any pretreatment standard or requirement [in accordance with 40 CFR 403.8(f)(6)].

Upon finding that the industrial user meeting the criteria in paragraph 2, above, has no reasonable potential for adversely affecting the POTW's operation or for violating any pretreatment standard or requirement, the Control Authority* may at any time, on its own initiative or in response to a petition received from an industrial user or POTW, and in accordance with 40 CFR 403.8(f)(6), determine that such industrial user is not a significant industrial user.

*The term "Control Authority" refers to the Washington State Department of Ecology in the case of nondelegated POTWs or to the POTW in the case of delegated POTWs.

Slug Discharge—Any discharge of a nonroutine, episodic nature, including but not limited to an accidental spill or a noncustomary batch discharge to the POTW. This may include any pollutant released at a flow rate which may cause interference with the POTW.

State Waters—Lakes, rivers, ponds, streams, inland waters, underground waters, salt waters, and all other surface waters and watercourses within the jurisdiction of the state of Washington.

Stormwater—That portion of precipitation that does not naturally percolate into the ground or evaporate, but flows via overland flow, interflow, pipes, and other features of a stormwater drainage system into a defined surface water body, or a constructed infiltration facility.

FACILITY NAME: *Q Sea Speciality Services L.L.C.*

Technology-based Effluent Limit—A permit limit that is based on the ability of a treatment method to reduce the pollutant.

Total Suspended Solids (TSS)—Total suspended solids is the particulate material in an effluent. Large quantities of TSS discharged to a receiving water may result in solids accumulation. Apart from any toxic effects attributable to substances leached out by water, suspended solids may kill fish, shellfish, and other aquatic organisms by causing abrasive injuries and by clogging the gills and respiratory passages of various aquatic fauna. Indirectly, suspended solids can screen out light and can promote and maintain the development of noxious conditions through oxygen depletion.

Water Quality-based Effluent Limit—A limit on the concentration of an effluent parameter that is intended to prevent the concentration of that parameter from exceeding its water quality criterion after it is discharged into a receiving water.

APPENDIX C—RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

No comments were received during the public comment period.